

site parking and provides for all parking required in a Revenue Authority

parking garage which is located at the corner of Joppa Road and Washington

Avenue. Mr. Gill testified that as a result of analyzing the plan carefully and discussions with various prospective tenants of the building, it became apparent that the site lacks an important marketing factor. Due to the lack of any on-site parking spaces for messengers and/or delivery personnel, the potential exists that the adjoining property owner and the community may experience parking problems from additional traffic being created by messenger and delivery personnel circling the building looking for parking. Mr. Gill testified Petitioners filed the instant Petition, which will result in a loss of the buffer on the west side of the property adjoining Trinity Church, to provide the needed service and delivery parking. Mr. Gill indicated that prior to filing the instant petition, Petitioners first discussed the matter with its neighbors who would be most adversely affected. As a result of discussions between the parties, the Petitioners have agreed to construct a fence, of an attractive black aluminum agreed to by all parties, that will prevent crossing over from the subject property onto the Trinity Church parking lot. Petitioners further agreed to provide additional buffering at its own expense on the adjoining Trinity Church property. Testimony presented by Petitioners indicated this will permit eight (8) on-site parking spots and providing the parking spaces for short visits is critical to the success of the building. Petitioners' witnesses testified in their opinion, a denial of the requested variance could create traffic congestion problems for the community in addition to presenting practical difficulty to Petitioners. Mr. Gill, Mr. Warfield, and Mr. Smith testified in their opinion that the granting of the variance will result in no hardship or detriment to the health, safety or general welfare of the community.

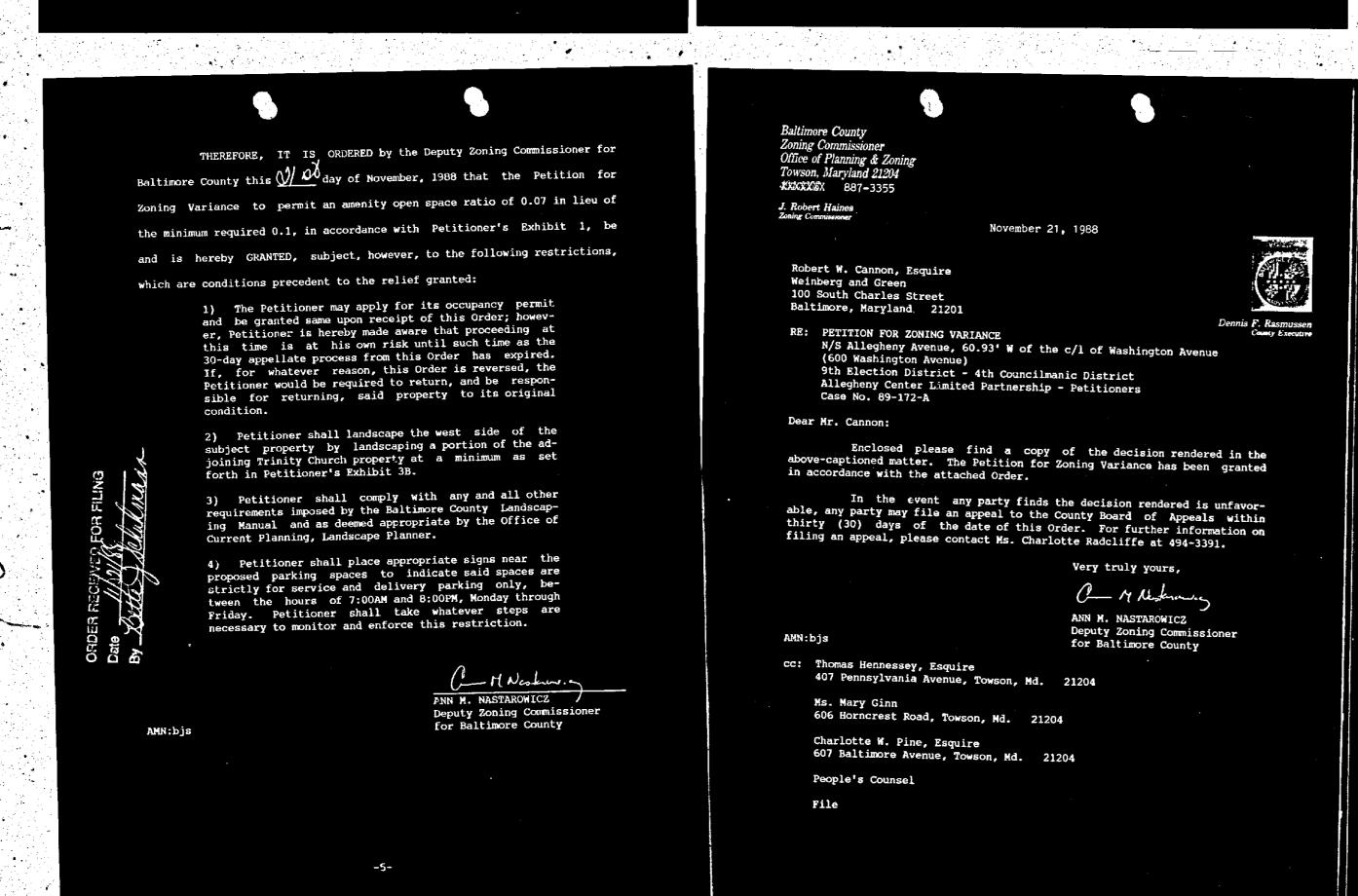
Mr. Hennessey confirmed the testimony of Petitioners regarding the agreement reached by and between Petitioners and Trinity Church. Trinity Church has no objection to Petitioners' request. Ms. Ginn and Ms. Pine testified they were greatly concerned about the ability of the roads to handle the traffic pattern approved for this site wherein there will be two lames of exit, both left and right turns, out of the subject property onto Allegheny Avenue. Further, the Protestants were opposed to any variance being given to the subject property. The Protestants indicated that in their opinion, the proposed building is going to create a traffic problem in the area. An area variance may be granted where strict application of the zoning regulations would cause practical difficulty to the Petitioner and his property. McLean v. Soley, 270 Md. 208 (1973). To prove practical difficulty for an area variance, the Petitioner must meet the following: whether strict compliance with requirement would unreasonably prevent the use of the property for a permitted purpose or render conformance unnecessarily whether the grant would do substantial injustice to applicant as well as other property owners in the applied for would give substantial relief; and whether relief can be granted in such fashion that the spirit of the ordinance will be observed and public safety and welfare secured. Anderson v. Bd. of Appeals, Town of Chesapeake Beach, 22 Md. App. 28 In reality, the granting of the variance at the particular location described herein and a reduction in the amenity open space will not have any adverse affect on the health, safety, or general welfare of the community. The loss of amenity open space in this instance is on the west

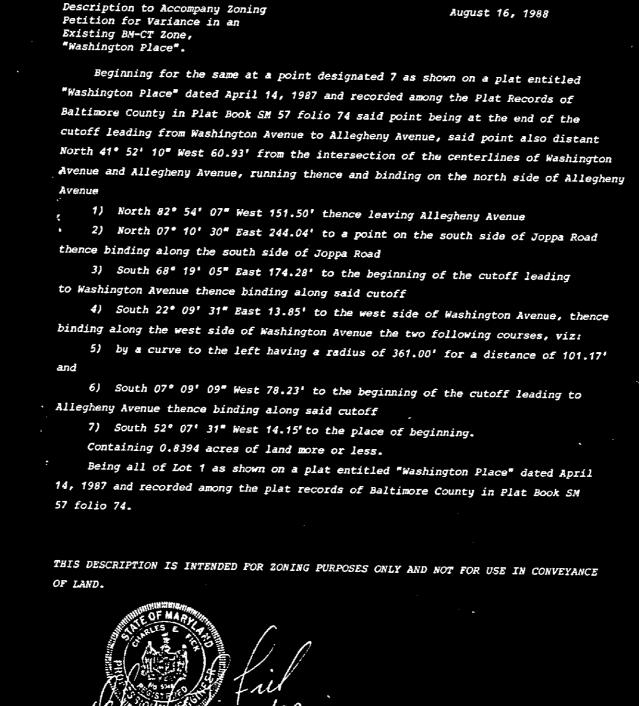
end of the property, which abuts Trinity Church. The individuals who would be most adversely affected have agreed to Petitioners' proposal provided it supplements its existing buffer on the Trinity Church property at a minimum in the fashion set forth in Petitioner's Exhibit 3A and 3B. While amenity open space is critical to the beautification of a project for the benefit of the general public, the loss of such space in this instance is not detrimental due to the landscaping which will be done on the Trinity Church property. Further, it cannot be ignored the denial of the variance would result in no on-site parking for a project that has been approved and will exist. After due consideration of the testimony presented, it seems appropriate that the proposed additional parking will help create less congestion on the adjoining streets by providing necessary service parking. Petitioners have agreed to monitor the use of the parking spaces and to insure it is limited to messenger service and delivery personnel. Petitioners have reached an agreement with the adjoining neighbors which will enable it to buffer and landscape the property line. The granting of this variance shall not be deemed as a waiver of any other requirements Petitioners shall be required to comply with regarding CRG approval of the proposed modified site plan.

It is clear from the testimony that if the variance is granted,

such use as proposed would not be contrary to the spirit of the B.C.Z.R. and would not result in substantial detriment to the public health, safety, and general welfare. Pursuant to the advertisement, posting of the property, and

public hearing on this Petition held, and for the reasons given above, the variance requested should be granted.





FROM THE OFFICE OF GEORGE WILLIAM STEPHENS, JR., & ASSOCIATES, INC.

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